

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 13-31 are presently pending in this application, Claims 1-12 having been canceled and Claims 13-31 having been added by the present Amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-8 and 10-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 2000344353 (JP '353); Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP '353 in view of Kim (U.S. Patent 6,009,060); and Claim 12 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP '353 in view of Goto et al (U.S. Patent 6,307,828 B1).

New Claims 13-31 find clear support in the original specification, claims and drawings (for example, Figs. 4-8). Hence, Claims 13-31 are not believed to raise a question of new matter.

Briefly recapitulating, Claim 13 is directed to a disc support plate. For example, referring to the non-limiting embodiment of Figs. 4-8, the disc support plate 2 includes a substrate (2a) which has a first edge portion (2c) and a second edge portion (2d). A disc is loaded onto the disc support plate 2 from the first edge portion (2c) to the second edge portion (2d) along a disc loading direction (see Fig. 4). *A resin portion (2b) is provided only on the first edge portion (2c), the second edge portion (2d) and a line-shaped portion (2e) provided between the first edge portion (2c) and the second edge portion (2d).* Since the resin portion (2b) is provided only on the first edge portion (2c), the second edge portion (2d) and the line-shaped portion (2e), the disc support plate 2 may readily retain the disc horizontally.

The Office Action asserts that JP '353 discloses a disc tray 23 having a substrate 23b and a resin portion (23c, 23a) placed on the substrate as set forth in claims 1 and 11.

However, the cited references including JP '353 do not disclose or even suggest that a resin portion is provided only on the first edge portion, the second edge portion and a line-shaped portion which is provided between the first edge portion and the second edge portion.

Instead, JP '353 discloses a disc tray 23 in which a resin portion 23c is provided on the entire surface of the substrate 23b except for the circular concave portion 23a. Consequently, Claim 13 is believed to be non-obvious over the cited references. Therefore, Claim 13 is believed to be allowable.

Likewise, independent Claims 23-26 include subject matter substantially similar to what is recited in Claim 13 to the extent discussed above. Thus, Claims 27-30 are also distinguishable from the cited references. Therefore, Claims 23-26 are believed to be allowable.

Substantially the same arguments as set forth above with regard to Claim 13 also apply to dependent Claims 14-22, which depend directly from Claim 13. Accordingly, each of the dependent claims is also believed to be allowable.

Claim 27 is directed to a method for manufacturing a disc support plate. In this method, a substrate is provided and *resin is printed* on a surface of the substrate.

The cited references including JP '353 do not disclose or even suggest that resin is printed on a surface of the substrate. Instead, JP '353 discloses that a metal substrate 23b is inserted into a resin portion 23c. Therefore, Claim 31 is believed to be non-obvious over the cited references. Consequently, Claim 27 is believed to be allowable.

Substantially the same arguments as set forth above with regard to Claim 27 also apply to dependent Claims 28-31, which depend directly from Claim 27. Accordingly, each of the dependent claims is also believed to be allowable.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 1-12 without prejudice and add new Claims 13-31 as follows:

--1. - 12. (Canceled)

13. - 31. (New)--